

Message Text

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54

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /059 W

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R 090930Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6877

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 0797

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFORN, MT, IT

SUBJ: MINTOFF HOLIDAY ON ITALIAN ISLAND

1. GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED MALTA NEWS REPORTED JULY 9 THAT PRIME MINISTER MINTOFF WILL LEAVE MALTA ON JULY 10 FOR A SHORT HOLIDAY ABROAD. HIS DESTINATION WAS REPORTED AS "UNKNOWN".

2. ITALIAN EMBOFF TOLD US ON PREVIOUS DAY THAT MINTOFF WILL SPEND THIS HOLIDAY ON ISCHIA, AN ISLAND OFF NAPLES, WHERE HE WILL BE THE HOUSE GUEST OF ITALIAN SECRETARY GENERAL MANZINI. HE IS EXPECTED TO RETURN ON OR AROUND JULY 20.

3. COMMENT: PRESUMABLY, MINTOFF WILL BE RESTING AND GIRDING HIS LOINS FOR THE COMING ELECTORAL BATTLE. AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, HE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY ALSO BE CONSULTING FUTHER WITH MANZINI, WHO HAS ALMOST BECOME IN SOME RESPECTS MINTOFF'S DE FACTO PRINCIPAL FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADVISOR. SUBJECTS ARE LIKELY TO INCLUDE MALTA'S FUTURE BEYOND 1979 AND HOW BEST TO OBTAIN SOME KIND OF WESTERN-SUPPORTED "GUARANTEE" OF MALTA'S NEUTRALITY THAT HE CAN REVEAL TO THE ELECTORATE DURING THE CAMPAIGN. SMITH

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NNN

Message Attributes

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